

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claim 1 and add Claim 15 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, comprising:

joint members equal in number to a number of the discharge nozzles and being arranged to face the discharge nozzles, wherein each joint member operates to cover either the supply port or discharge port when removing the liquid in a discharge nozzle;

a connecting member selectively connectable to each of said joint members; and

a pump for being connected to said connecting member and removing the liquid in each of the discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and discharge port of each discharge nozzle facing one of said joint members selectively connected to said connecting member,

wherein the pressure difference of the pump is applied to one of the discharge nozzles by connecting said connecting member to one of the joint members which has been operated to cover either the supply port or discharge port of the one of the discharge nozzles.

2.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discharge

head comprises electrothermal transducers which generate heat energy for liquid discharge.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the discharge head discharges the liquid from the discharge ports by utilizing film boiling caused by the heat energy applied by the electrothermal transducers.

8.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the connecting member is detachable from said pump.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an assembly that holds said joint members such that adapter joints of said joint members, which are connected to said connecting member, are arranged on the same level.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member is selectively connectable to any one of said joint members by moving said connecting member to the position of said one joint member.

15. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said joint members operates to cover only one of the discharge nozzles.